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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate E - Food Safety; plant health, animal health and welfare, international questions
E3 - International food, veterinary and phytosanitary questions

Brussels, 13th September
E3/JNC/dlc-D(2000)21116

URGENT FAX

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Number of pages:	1 + 3	Follow-up report on the evolution of foot-and-mouth disease in Greece
Subject:		

Message:

Please find attached the 5th follow-up report on the evolution of foot-and-mouth disease in Greece.

We will keep you informed of any future development.

To: - DR. TORRES 09/18/90
 - DR. COLGROVE
 - DR. FERGUSON
 - DR. GROOCOCK
 - DR. SHEESLEY
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Yours sincerely,

Jens NYMAND CHRISTENSEN
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5th FOLLOW - UP REPORT

ON THE EVOLUTION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN GREECE

(Situation as at 13th September 2000)

BACKGROUND

This is the 5th Follow-up Report describing the evolution of FMD - serotype Asia 1- in Greece during the period from 2nd to 13th September 2000.

Previous documentation referring to FMD in Greece is published, in English, in the new web page of the National Crisis Centre at :

<http://www.mineagric.or/greek/2.3.1.html>

EVOLUTION OF FMD IN GREECE

1. Current situation in the field

During the time period elapsed since the last Report (1st September), there has been no new outbreak in Xanthi, but two (2) new outbreaks have been reported in Evros.

The co-ordinates of the new outbreaks in Evros are as follows:-

- Outbreak 00/13 (Asimenio) : 41° 24' 10" N and 29° 51' E
- Outbreak 00/14 (Didimoticho) : 41° 21' 30" N and 28° 47' E

RECEIVED TIME

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The summary description of the new outbreaks is given in Table 1 and their location is indicated in Map 1 attached hereto.

Outbreak No. & Type	Location	Animals Present	Suspicion Date	Confirmation Date Reason
		Species Number	Sick	Reason
00/13-Second.	Asimenio, EVROS	Bovines 209	15	07.09. clinical 11.09 VP
00/14-Second.	Didimotycho EVROS	Bovines 228	11	10.09. clinical Pending

Table 1: New FMD outbreaks in Evros

2. Epidemiological considerations

Retrospectively, both outbreaks No.00/13 and No.00/14 are independently linked with outbreak No.00/11 (Mandra, Evros, date of confirmation 18.08, date of depopulation 19.08). The sequence of events is as follows:

- Just prior of depopulation of 00/11, corn was harvested from a nearby field and silaged.
Harvesting and silage was carried out by a mixed team comprising of workers and holding owners acting as a consortium possessing the necessary equipment and offering such services to interested farmers in the wider region.
- At the time the local authorities, although they were aware of this potential link, did not consider it strong enough to justify preemptive actions.
Possible contact holdings, however, were identified and placed under surveillance.
- On 07.09 clinical suspicion of FMD was raised in a dairy cattle herd in Asimenio village with no other plausible explanation, with regard to the origin of infection, other than the fact that the holding had received silaged corn from the suspect harvest vehicle on 28.08.
The infection was confirmed by virus detection on 11.09 and the holding was duly designated as outbreak 00/13.
However, it was still considered a distant possibility that the infection was due to the visit on the premises of the suspect harvest machine and no action was taken in other known contacts.
- On 10.09 clinical suspicion was raised in a dairy cattle herd in Didimotycho city, which was a candidate contact through the suspect common harvest machine.
Apart from that, there is no other obvious or implied means of transmission or link with a known source of infection.
Laboratory confirmation is not available to this date and, therefore, the outbreak is provisionally designated as 00/14.
If and when confirmed, it will lend support to the working hypothesis of the harvest machine and preemptive measures are being considered for the remaining contact holdings.

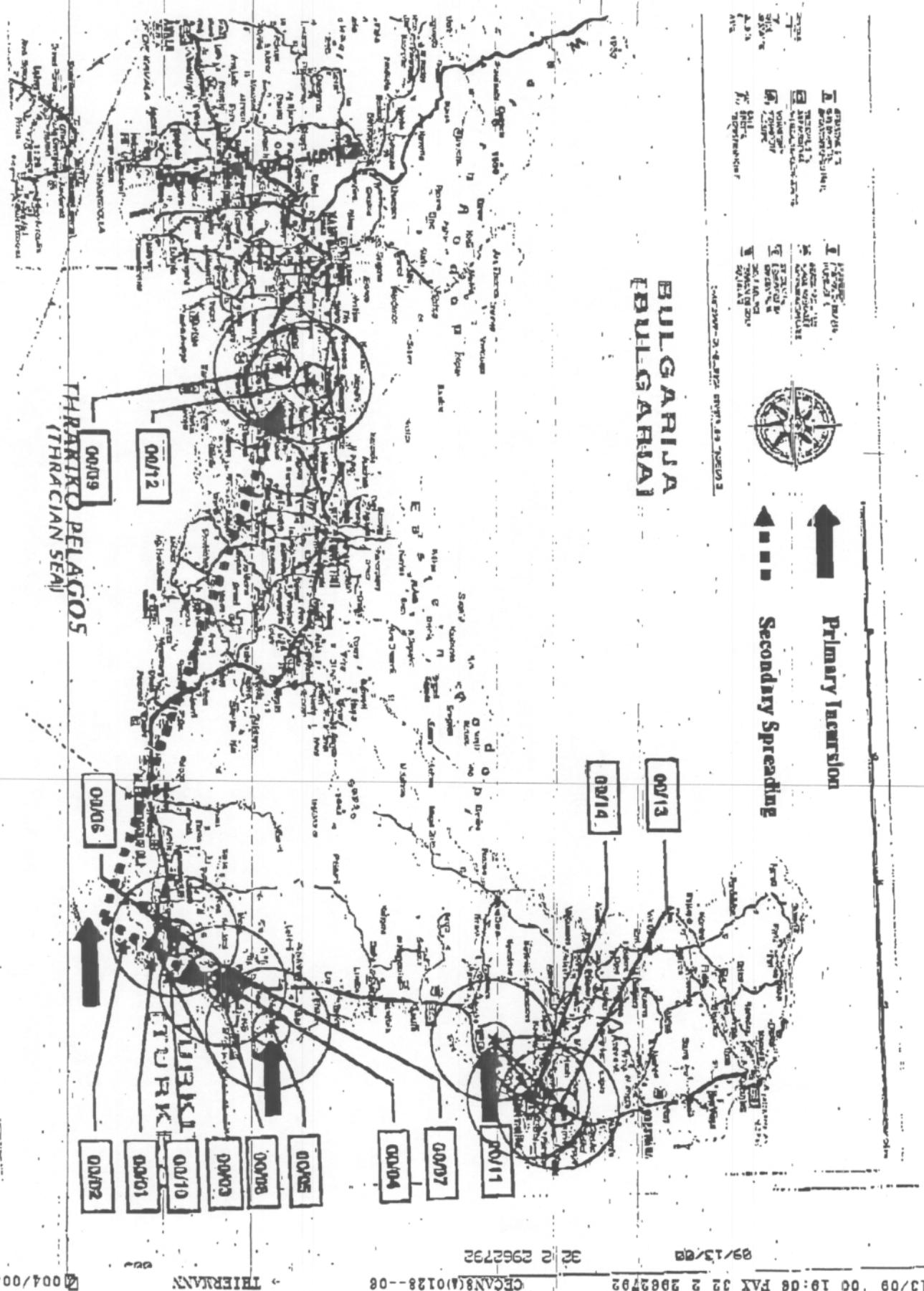
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This concludes the 5th Follow-up report on the evolution of FMD in Greece.

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